

Message Text

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH SEN. RIBICOFF AND HARRY SCHWARTZ

1. I ENCOUNTERED ABE RIBICOFF OVER THE WEEKEND AND HE AGAIN SPOKE VERY CRITICALLY ABOUT THE NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS' AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS. HE SAID THE WHOLE THING WAS A SHAM AND WORTHLESS AND THAT IF DETENTE MEANT ANYTHING WE AND THE RUSSIANS SHOULD GET TOGETHER TO THREATEN CUTTING OFF URANIUM SUPPLIES FOR THE GERMANS AND FRENCH IF THEY DID NOT MODIFY THEIR EXPORT POLICIES. I TOLD HIM THAT THE AGREEMENT AMONG THE SEVEN REPRESENTED SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS EVEN IF IT WAS NOT IDEAL AND THAT THE NOTION OF ALLYING OUTSELVES WITH THE RUSSIANS AGAINST OUR OWN ALLIES WAS PROFOUND FOLLY REMINISCENT OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE NPT WAS NEGOTIATED TEN YEARS AGO. ABE IS EAGERLY AWAITING YOUR APPEARANCE BEFORE HIS COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK. YOU MAY HAVE NOTED IN THIS REGARD A BINDER PIECE IN YESTERDAY'S TIMES WHICH CITES OFFICIALS AS POINTING THE FINGER AT THE GERMANS AND FRENCH FOR NOT

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ALLOWING A MORE FAR-REACHING AGREEMENT. YOUR BRIEFING

MATERIALS FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCE ARE BEING DRAFT-
ED AND WILL BE READY ON WEDNESDAY. YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER
HAVING A SKULL SESSION SOMETIME BEFORE YOU GO UP.

2. I TELEPHONED HARRY SCHWARTZ OF THE NEW YORK TIMES EDI-
TORIAL BOARD TO RAISE HELL ABOUT THE UNCONSCIONABLE EDITOR-
IAL LAST SATURDAY ON THE MOSCOW SIGNAL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT HE SHOULD NOT HAVE IMPLIED THAT OUR HANDLING OF THE
PROBLEM WAS DUE TO OUR ADHERENCE TO THE SLOGAN "DETENTE
AT ANY COST," WHICH I TOLD HIM WAS SOLELY HIS INVENTION.
I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT IT WAS PLAIN UNTRUTHFUL TO SAY THAT
THE MOSCOW EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WERE BRIEFED AT THE INSIST-
ENCE OF THE DOCTORS BECAUSE OF THEIR DOCTOR-PATIENT RE-
LATIONSHIP WHEN ALL THE DOCTORS WORKED FOR THE DEPARTMENT
AND CLEARLY ACTED AT ITS DIRECTION. SCHWARTZ ACKNOWLEDGED
THAT THIS MAY BE INACCURATE BUT HE WAS ADAMANT IN HIS VIEW
THAT WE WERE TRYING TO HUSH UP SOVIET INHUMANITY. I TOLD
HIM HIS EDITORIAL COULD ONLY INFLAME THE ISSUE AND HAMPER
OUR DETERMINED EFFORT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM AND PROTECT
THE WELL-BEING OF THE STAFF. TO SHOW YOU HOW FAR THE MAN
HAS COME WHO BERATED US IN 1972 FOR NOT MOVING FASTER ON
TRADE, HE SAID WE SHOULD SIMPLY PULL OUT ALL OUR STAFF
AND LET THE RUSSIANS TAKE THE CONSEQUENCES. INGERSOLL

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